

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 27040 01 OF 02 161812Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

IO-13 /083 W

----- 019147

R 161520Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5020

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 27040

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: FO'S RENTREE

1. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF FO'S GROWTH IN STRENGTH AND SELF-CONFIDENCE WAS PROVIDED BY THE RENTREE MASS MEETING IT ORGANIZED IN A MAJOR HALL IN A PARIS SUBURB ON 10 SEPTEMBER. NOT ONLY THE HALL WAS FILLED WITH OVER SEVEN THOUSAND CHEERING MILITANTS, SOMETHING WHICH NOWADAYS IS NOT EASILY ACCOMPLISHED ON A FRIDAY AFTER-NOON, BUT IT INCLUDED OVER THREE THOUSAND MILITANTS FROM THE PROVINCES. FOR THE FIRST TIME FO MEMBERS BOARDED BUSES TO COME TO PARIS IN RESPONSE TO FO'S CALL, SOMETHING WHICH CGT HAS EXCELLED IN DOING FOR MANY YEARS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 27040 01 OF 02 161812Z

2. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT WAS NOT LOST ON THE FO MEMBERS WHO SUCCEEDED IN CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE OF DYNAMISM AND CONFIDENCE WHICH GAVE THE PARTICIPANTS A CLEAR FEELING THAT THEY REPRESENTED A REAL FORCE IN THE COUNTRY.

3. ABOVE ALL, THE SUCCESS OF THE MEETING INSPIRED ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO DELIVERED ONE OF HIS MORE FORCEFUL, COMMUNICATIVE AND CONFIDENT SPEECHES OF HIS CAREER. BY ALL ACCOUNTS BERGERON HELD HIS AUDIENCE SPELLBOUND BEING CONSTANTLY INTERRUPTED BY ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE.

4. BERGERON'S MESSAGE CONTAINED NOTHING NEW SINCE HIS MAIN PREOCCUPATION AT ALL TIMES IS THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM. HE SUPPORTED THE PRIORITY GIVEN TO THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION (PROVIDED IT DOES NOT UNDERMINE EMPLOYMENT) BUT REPEATED HIS FAVORITE POINT THAT ARBITRARY PRICE CONTROLS AND INCOMES POLICIES ARE NOT ONLY INEFFECTIVE BUT CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY BECAUSE THEY INEXORABLY LEAD TO TOTALITARIAN MEASURES.

5. SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT NOT SURPRISINGLY, BERGERON HAD SOME SHARP WORDS TO SAY ABOUT THE LEFT BY RECALLING A FRENCH PROVERB WHICH COULD BE TRANSLATED TO SAY, "HE WHO MAKES WAVES RISKS SINKING THE SHIP." WHAT HE MEANS IS THAT HE WHO ABANDONS ANY RESTRAINT IN HIS LANGUAGE OF WHOLESALE CONDEMNATION OF THE PRESENT REGIME AND ADVOCATES DRASTIC CHANGES AS A MATTER OF DOGMA RISKS TO LEAD THE COUNTRY INTO CHAOS AND A TOTALITARIAN REGIME. THE SHIP THAT RISKS SINKING IS DEMOCRACY AND PERSONAL LIBERTY. HE CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT FORCE OUVRIERE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ITS TRADITION OF BEING APOLITICAL IN THE SENSE OF REFUSING TO GIVE ADVICE TO ITS MEMBERS ON HOW TO VOTE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 27040 02 OF 02 161756Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01

IO-13 /083 W

----- 018468

R 161520Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5021

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 27040

SINCE FO MEMBERS ARE FREE CITIZENS, EACH WITH HIS OWN
POLITICAL BELIEFS AND IDEAS.

6. BERGERON'S PLAIN, CLEAR AND PRAGMATIC LANGUAGE
WHEN IT COMES TO DEALING WITH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
PROBLEMS IS ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO
FO'S CONSTANT GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP AND INFLUENCE.
AS A RESULT, FO LEADERS FROM BERGERON DOWN HAVE MAIN-
TAINED A DEGREE OF CREDIBILITY WITH THE RANK AND FILE
WHICH CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE DEMAGOGIC LANGUAGE
OF THEIR MAIN COMPETITORS IN CGT AND CFDT.

7. BERGERON'S AFFIRMATION OF FO'S POLICY TO STAY OUT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 27040 02 OF 02 161756Z

POLITICS WILL NOT CARRY MUCH FAVOR WITH THE LEFT-WING
SOCIALISTS. WE MAY EVEN SEE A RENEWAL OF DEMANDS IN
SOCIALIST PARTY MEETINGS FOR BERGERON'S EXPULSION
FROM THE PS. WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT MITTERRAND
WILL STAND FIRM IN HIS PAST OPPOSITION TO ANY SUCH
DEMANDS FOR HE RECOGNIZES THAT TRADE UNIONISM OF THE
TYPE EXAMPLIFIED BY FORCE OUVRIERE AND ELOQUENTLY
ARTICULATED BY BERGERON WILL BE EVEN MORE USEFUL TO A
GOVERNMENT OF THE LEFT AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF
DEMOCRACY THAN THAT REPRESENTED BY THE REVOLUTIONARIES
OF CGT AND CFDT. THIS EXPLAINS PERHAPS WHY THE

MITTERRAND-BERGERON PERSONAL RELATIONS REMAIN FRIENDLY
EVEN THOUGH BERGERON HAS NEVER CONCEALED HIS OPPOSITION
TO THE STRATEGY OF THE PS-PC COMMON PROGRAM.
RUSH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS27040
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-1087
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760953/aaaabtjw.tel
Line Count: 173
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FO'S RENTREE
TAGS: ELAB, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006